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Department of State

AMERICAN EMBASSY
 BRASILIA BRAZIL

INFO : Amembassy RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

SUBJ

Amembassy MONTEVIDEO

September 8, 1967

Brizola Denies Involvement in Presidential Assassination Plot

Montevideo A-114

1. On September 4 Verdad (published by striking newspaper unions), carried a short article that stated that Brazilian military authorities have information that two months ago Leonel BRIZOLA was involved in a plot to kill President COSTA E SILVA. No press agency or individual reporter is indicated as a source for the article which is prefixed simply "Rio de Janeiro 4 (Especial)."

2. Brizola replied immediately to the accusation in a letter published the following day in Verdad. In the letter he claims that the article was written by his opponents. He states that, far from desiring Costa e Silva's early demise, there are two reasons why he wishes the President a long life: (a) his permanence in the government is helpful to the opposition and (b) he deserves adequate time to atone for the evil he has done Brazil.

3. The ex-Governor describes himself as a "kind of obsession for some American-lovers" in his country. He speculates that the latest attack on him may be part of a "smoke screen" to mask a plot against the President by backers of the deceased CASTELO BRANCO.

4. Comment: This incident and Brizola's reaction (airgram under reference) to reports in the Montevideo press that Brazilian military officials had charged him with training guerrillas on his farm in Pando, Uruguay, take on added interest in EO50x1 report that Brizola and Fidel CASTRO have reached agreement on joint cooperation for a long-range program of guerrilla activities in Brazil.

Group 1

TOPPING

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9/7/67

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